

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 06416 301744Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 DLOS-09 ACDA-07
CG-00 DOTE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /116 W
-----116334 302318Z /70

R 301326Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1537
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOOT
AMEMBASSY RABATT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6416

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, SP, SS
SUBJECT: SPANISH OFFICIAL ON SAHARA SITUATION

REF: MADRID 6390

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON THE RECENT VISIT HERE OF MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS (REFTEL), THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR AFRICAN AND CONTINENTAL ASIAN AFFAIRS (CAJAL) REVIEWED SPAIN'S POSITION ON THE SAHARA, BEGINNING WITH A RE-AFFIRMATION (AS NOTED REFTEL) OF CONTINUING SPANISH ADHERENCE TO THE MADRID AGREEMENTS AND SPAIN'S STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 26, 1976 TO THE UN.

2. ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE CORTES MIGHT BRING ABOUT SOME CHANGE IN SPANISH POLICY, CAJAL ELABORATED THAT IT WAS IN FACT HARD TO SEE JUST WHAT CHANGES MIGHT BE WROUGHT. DENOUNCING THE MADRID AGREEMENTS WOULD BE "DEMENTED," HE SAID, UNDERCUTTING THE PRINCIPLE OF RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND RE-OPENING THE WHOLE QUESTION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 06416 301744Z

OF SPANISH RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE SAHARA, SPAIN WAS ALREADY ON RECORD TO THE EFFECT THAT THE INDICATED CONSULTATION OF THE SAHRAOUI PEOPLE HAD NOT YET TAKEN PLACE, A POSITION WHICH ALGERIA WISHED TO SEE SPAIN EMPHASIZE JUST AS MOROCCO WANTED IT DOWNPLAYED; BUT MOROCCO WAS UNLIKELY TO GIVE UP ITS STANCE MERELY BECAUSE THE SPANISH CORTES SAID IT SHOULD. FOR THAT MATTER, SAID CAJAL, BEING

WHERE IT WAS, MOROCCO SIMPLY COULD NOT GIVE IN. FURTHERMORE, POPULAR SENTIMENT WAS BEHIND HASSAN ON THIS ISSUE, AND WOULD SUPPORT HIM DOWN THE LINE.

3. THERE WAS, IN FACT, LITTLE PROSPECT FOR SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE SITUATION. NONE OF THE PARTIES WAS EITHER DISPOSED TO GIVE IN NOR ABLE TO IMPOSE ITS VIEW, CAJAL CONTINUED. HE ASSUMED (OR KNEW) MOROCCO WAS DOING WHAT IT COULD DIPLOMATICALLY TO HEAD OFF THE LUSAKA SUMMIT, BUT SO FAR THE MEETING APPEARED TO REMAIN ON THE TRACKS. JUST WHAT IT WOULD RESULT IN WAS DIFFICULT TO FORESEE, WITH SOME SORT OF FORMULATION REGARDING SELF-DETERMINATION ONE LIKELY POSSIBILITY. FURTHERMORE, CAJAL SAID, THE UN COMMITTEE OF 24 HAD SPECIFICALLY HELD OFF TO ALLOW THE OAU SUMMIT TO TAKE PLACE. ONCE IT HAD DONE SO, THE COMMITTEE WOULD PRESUMABLY TAKE THE SUBJECT ON, AND IT WAS LIKELY TO GIVE IT RATHER CRISPER TREATMENT THAN THE OAU HAD.

4. MOROCCO, OF COURSE, UNWILLING TO GIVE IN, SEEMED TO CAJAL MOST LIKELY TO DIG IN ITS HEELS IN THE FACE OF ANY FOREIGN PRESSURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID, HE WAS HIMSELF CONVINCED THAT MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA WOULD WIN ANY HONEST CONSULTATION OF THE SAHRAOUI PEOPLE.

5. IN THE MEANTIME, CAJAL WENT ON, WITHIN THE TENSE STABILITY REPRESENTED BY THE PRESENT SITUATION THERE WERE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 06416 301744Z

SOME ELEMENTS OF CHANGE. WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FEW MONTHS AGO OF A JOINT MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN MILITARY COMMITTEE, FOLLOWED BY THE PROVISION OF MOROCCAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND THE STATIONING IN MAURITANIA OF MOROCCAN PERSONNEL -- AND AIRCRAFT -- HE SAID, MAURITANIA'S CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO POLISARIO ATTACKS HAD INCREASED APPRECIABLY. PREDICTING SUCH ATTACKS, OF COURSE, REMAINED IMPOSSIBLE.

6. FINDING THE POLISARIO WHEN IT DID NOT WANT TO BE FOUND WAS SCARCELY EASIER, CAJAL CONTINUED. UNDER THE GUISE OF MANEUVERS A MOROCCAN FORCE OF SOME 12-15,000 HAD RECENTLY CARRIED OUT A SWEEP OF THE SAHARA (THIS WAS THE FORCE, HE SAID, WHOSE CONGREGATING IN THE TINDOUF AREA HAD GIVEN RISE TO REPORTS OF A MASSING OF MOROCCAN TROOPS THERE). THEY HAD MADE NO CONTACT, THUS LENDING APPARENT FUEL TO THE PROPAGANDISTIC CONTENTION THAT THE POLISARIO WAS A MYTH.

7. MOROCCAN INTEREST IN TINDOUF REMAINED A POSSIBLE TROUBLE POINT, ACCORDING TO CAJAL. THERE WAS A TRADITIONAL CLAIM TO THE TERRITORY, AND PORTIONS OF THE MOROCCAN MILITARY EVEN NOW FAVOR DIRECT MILITARY ACTION TO SEIZE IT. THE LOCATION NEARBY OF SAHRAOUI REFUGEE CAMPS LENDS

ITS OWN DIMENSION TO THE SITUATION, CAJAL ADDED, BUT HE
GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE THOUGHT ANY MOROCCAN ACTION
WAS IN THE OFFING. STABLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID06416
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770314-0025
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977089/aaaaagzv.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7543e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MADRID 6390
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1687420
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH OFFICIAL ON SAHARA SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, SP, SS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7543e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009